



For a thriving New England

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September 18, 2015

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**VIA CERTIFIED MAIL, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

RE: Notice of Violations and Intent to File Suit under the Clean Water Act

To Whom It May Concern:

The Conservation Law Foundation (“CLF”)<sup>1</sup> hereby gives notice to the addressed persons of its intent to file suit pursuant to Section 505 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (“Clean Water Act,” “CWA,” or “Act”), 33 U.S.C. § 1365(a), for violations of the Act specified below. This letter constitutes notice pursuant to 40 C.F.R., part 135 (the “Notice”) to the addressed persons of CLF’s intention to file suit in United States District Court of the District of New Hampshire seeking appropriate equitable relief, civil penalties, and other relief no earlier than 60 days from the postmark date of this Notice letter.

The subject of this action is two-fold. First, Cold Brook Gravel, Inc. (hereinafter “Cold Brook Gravel”) is discharging stormwater directly associated with the crushed and broken stone industrial facility located at 267 Queen Street, Boscawen, NH 03303 (the “Facility”), to the waters of the United States without a permit, in violation of 33 U.S.C. §§ 1311(a) and 1342(p)(2)(B). Second, Cold Brook Gravel has failed to obtain coverage under any Clean Water

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<sup>1</sup> CLF is a not-for-profit 501(C)(3) organization dedicated to the conservation and protection of New England’s environment. Its mission includes the conservation and protection of the many uses of the waters in and around Merrimack watershed for, among other things, fishing, recreation, boating, scenic/aesthetic, and scientific purposes. CLF’s membership includes people who live in or near the Merrimack watershed, and use and enjoy the watershed for recreational, aesthetic, and/or scientific purposes. The interests of CLF’s members are adversely affected by the Facility’s discharges of stormwater pollution to the receiving waters without a permit and in violation of the Clean Water Act.

Act permit including the Multi-Sector General Permit<sup>2</sup> (“MSGP”) adopted by the Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) for industrial sources of polluted stormwater runoff, and failed to comply with the specific requirements of any such permit, in violation of 33 U.S.C. §§ 1342(p)(3)(A) and (p)(4)(A), and 40 C.F.R. §§ 122.26(c)(1) and (e)(1).

## **BACKGROUND**

Cold Brook is within the Merrimack watershed and flows into Tannery Brook, which flows thereafter into the Merrimack River. Cold Brook Gravel discharges into Cold Brook. Cold Brook and Tannery Brook have been assigned the same Waterbody ID by the EPA (Waterbody ID NHRIV700060102-07). The EPA has designated Cold Brook and Tannery Brook as impaired pursuant to Section 303(d) of the Act for failure to meet minimum water quality standards.<sup>3</sup> Cold Brook and Tannery Brook are impaired for mercury, pathogens, and pH.<sup>4</sup> Stormwater is a significant contributor to these impairments.

The Merrimack River is within the Merrimack watershed and flows into the Atlantic Ocean. Tannery Brook flows into the Merrimack River at Segment NHRIV700060102-15. The EPA has designated Segment NHRIV700060102-15 as impaired pursuant to Section 303(d) of the Act for failure to meet minimum water quality standards.<sup>5</sup> The Segment is impaired for mercury.<sup>6</sup>

Stormwater is water from precipitation events that flows across the ground and pavement after it rains or after snow and ice melt.<sup>7</sup> Industrial activities, such as material handling and storage, equipment maintenance and cleaning, industrial processing, and other operations that occur at industrial facilities, may be exposed to stormwater.<sup>8</sup> Stormwater from industrial facilities, contaminated with pollutants, is then conveyed into nearby waterbodies.<sup>9</sup>

Cold Brook Gravel is required to apply for coverage under a Clean Water Act discharge permit such as the MSGP in order to discharge lawfully. Since at least 1995, Cold Brook Gravel has been specifically required to apply for coverage under the MSGP by filing a Notice of Intent

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<sup>2</sup> ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, MULTI-SECTOR GENERAL PERMIT FOR STORMWATER DISCHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY (MSGP) [hereinafter MSGP], *available at* [http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/npdes/stormwater/upload/msgp2015\\_finalpermit.pdf](http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/npdes/stormwater/upload/msgp2015_finalpermit.pdf) (last visited September 8, 2015).

<sup>3</sup> See 33 U.S.C. § 1313(d).

<sup>4</sup> [http://ofmpub.epa.gov/waters10/attains\\_waterbody.control?p\\_au\\_id=NHRIV700060102-07&p\\_list\\_id=NHRIV700060102-07&p\\_cycle=2010](http://ofmpub.epa.gov/waters10/attains_waterbody.control?p_au_id=NHRIV700060102-07&p_list_id=NHRIV700060102-07&p_cycle=2010) (last visited September 14, 2015).

<sup>5</sup> See 33 U.S.C. § 1313(d).

<sup>6</sup> [http://ofmpub.epa.gov/waters10/attains\\_waterbody.control?p\\_au\\_id=NHRIV700060102-15&p\\_cycle=2008](http://ofmpub.epa.gov/waters10/attains_waterbody.control?p_au_id=NHRIV700060102-15&p_cycle=2008) (last visited September 14, 2015).

<sup>7</sup> See 40 C.F.R. § 122.26(b)(13).

<sup>8</sup> See 40 C.F.R. § 122.26(b)(14).

<sup>9</sup> See 58 Fed. Reg. 61,146, 61,154 (November 19, 1993).

("NOI") within ninety days after the initial issuance of the MSGP.<sup>10</sup> On June 16, 2015, after expiration of the prior permit, the EPA issued a new MSGP requiring all covered facilities to file an NOI for coverage under the 2015 permit.

Cold Brook Gravel has failed to obtain coverage under the MSGP or any other valid authorization, at any time. Therefore, Cold Brook Gravel is operating in violation of the Clean Water Act.

### **PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS**

Cold Brook Gravel, Inc., is the person, as defined by 33 U.S.C. § 1362(5), responsible for the violations alleged in this Notice. Cold Brook Gravel has operated the Facility since at least 2010 and currently advertises as the operator of the Facility. Cold Brook Gravel and its agents and directors, including but not limited to Frank M. Edmunds and Richard D. Edmunds, have operational control over the day-to-day industrial activities at this Facility. Therefore, they are responsible for managing stormwater at the Facility in compliance with the Clean Water Act.

### **LOCATION OF THE ALLEGED VIOLATION**

The violations alleged in this Notice have occurred and continue to occur at the crushed and broken stone Facility located at 267 Queen Street, Boscawen, NH 03303.

### **ACTIVITIES ALLEGED TO BE VIOLATIONS**

Cold Brook Gravel has, and continues to, engage in "industrial activities," and its operations fall under SIC Code 1429, within the meaning of 40 C.F.R. § 122.26(b)(14).<sup>11</sup> Because the Facility has a primary SIC Code of 1429 and discharges stormwater associated with industrial activity, Cold Brook Gravel is required to apply for, obtain coverage, and comply with the requirements of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") permit such as the MSGP. Cold Brook Gravel has failed to take any of these required steps.

Activities at the Facility include, but are not limited to: storing, moving, and processing sand, stone, gravel, and other materials outside or otherwise exposing them to the elements; operating and storing heavy machinery and equipment outdoors; and driving vehicles on and off the

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<sup>10</sup> EPA's Final National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Multi-Sector General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity (MSGP) was first issued in 1995, reissued in 2000, 2008, and 2015. *See* 60 Fed. Reg. 50,804 (Sept. 29, 1995); 65 Fed. Reg. 64,746 (Oct. 30, 2000); 73 Fed. Reg. 56,572 (Sept. 29, 2008); 80 Fed. Reg. 34,403 (June 16, 2015). *See* MSGP parts 1.1 and 1.2.

<sup>11</sup> *See* MSGP, Appendix D: Activities Covered, at D-3. Crushed and broken stone facilities identified by SIC code 1429 are subject to the requirements of the MSGP for stormwater discharges.

Facility thereby tracking pollutants off-site. All of these activities at the Facility have contaminated the site with industrial pollutants.

Sand, stone, gravel, and other materials; machinery and equipment; and vehicles at the Facility are exposed to precipitation and snowmelt. Precipitation falls on and flows over the sand, stone and gravel piles; machinery and equipment; and vehicles, picking up dust, total suspended solids (TSS), total dissolved solids (TDS), fines, diesel/gas fuel, oil, heavy metals, trash, and other pollutants associated with the Facility's operations. The polluted runoff is then conveyed off-site into waters of the United States.

In addition, to the extent that Cold Brook Gravel uses water in its industrial processes, including but not limited to washing gravel and crushed stone and spraying on rock crushing and sorting machinery, that water becomes "process wastewater" (also referred to as "process water") as defined in 40 C.F.R. § 122.2.<sup>12</sup> Discharges of process wastewater are not covered under the Multi-Sector General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity. Discharges of process wastewater must instead be covered under an individual NPDES permit. CLF intends to pursue claims related to Cold Brook Gravel's unpermitted discharges of process water to waters of the United States.

### **STANDARDS AND LIMITATIONS ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN VIOLATED**

The Clean Water Act prohibits the discharge of pollutants to the waters of the United States except in accordance with a valid NPDES permit.<sup>13</sup> Cold Brook Gravel discharges stormwater associated with its industrial activity, as defined by 40 C.F.R. § 122.26(b)(14), from its Facility into waters of the United States. Because Cold Brook Gravel has not obtained coverage for these stormwater discharges under the MSGP or an individual NPDES permit, it is illegally discharging stormwater without a permit, in violation of 33 U.S.C. §§ 1311(a) and 1342(p)(2)(B).<sup>14</sup> By failing to apply for and comply with the specific requirements of the MSGP, Cold Brook Gravel is in violation of 33 U.S.C. §§ 1342(p)(3)(A) and (p)(4)(A), and 40 C.F.R. §§ 122.26(c)(1) and (e)(1). In addition, unpermitted discharges of process wastewater constitute violations of 33 U.S.C. §§ 1311(a) and CLF puts Cold Brook Gravel on notice that CLF intends to pursue claims related to Cold Brook Gravel's unpermitted discharges of process water to waters of the United States.

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<sup>12</sup> Defining "Process wastewater" as "any water which, during manufacturing or processing, comes into direct contact with or results from the production or use of any raw material, intermediate product, finished product, byproduct, or waste product."

<sup>13</sup> 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a).

<sup>14</sup> See 33 U.S.C. § 1362(12); 40 C.F.R. § 122.2; MSGP, Appendix A: Definitions, Abbreviations, and Acronyms (defining the term "discharge of a pollutant" as, *inter alia*, "any addition of any 'pollutant' or combination of pollutants to 'waters of the United States' from any 'point source'").

**a. Cold Brook Gravel is discharging stormwater to waters of the United States without a permit.**

Cold Brook Gravel is an industrial discharger with a primary SIC Code of 1429 which means that pursuant to Section 402(p) of the Act, Cold Brook Gravel is obligated to apply for coverage under the MSGP or obtain other legal authorization. Because Cold Brook Gravel has operated and continues to operate without a permit under Section 402(p), Cold Brook Gravel is in violation of Section 301(a) of the Act.

In addition, during storm events, Cold Brook Gravel's "industrial activities" at its Facility have resulted in a "discharge of pollutants" within the meaning of 33 U.S.C. § 1362(12) and "stormwater discharge associated with industrial activity" within the meaning of 40 C.F.R. § 122.26(b)(14), from its Facility on each and every day that there has been a measurable precipitation event of above 0.1 inches.<sup>15</sup> There have been many such storm events since 2010. The Facility is generating pollutants from and through at least the following point sources: the sand, rock and gravel piles that are open to the elements; the machines and equipment left outdoors, and the vehicles driving on and off the Facility, while additionally conveying pollutants through site grading, surface water channels, subsurface hydrological connections, detention ponds, ditches culverts, and other conveyances to Cold Brook and Tannery Brook.<sup>16</sup> Cold Brook and Tannery Brook flow into the Merrimack River, all of which are "waters of the United States," as defined in 40 C.F.R. § 122.2, and therefore, "navigable waters," as defined in 33 U.S.C. § 1362(7). The Facility is discharging this industrial stormwater without the permit required under Section 402 of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1342.

**b. Cold Brook Gravel is violating the Clean Water Act by failing to obtain coverage and failing to comply with the requirements of the MSGP.**

Cold Brook Gravel is violating 33 U.S.C. §§ 1342(p)(3)(A) and (p)(4)(A), and 40 C.F.R. §§ 122.26(c)(1) and (e)(1), by failing to apply for, obtain coverage, and comply with the requirements of the MSGP.<sup>17</sup> The Facility at 267 Queen Street, Boscawen, NH 03303 has a primary SIC Code of 1429 and must obtain coverage under the MSGP for its stormwater

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<sup>15</sup> See 40 C.F.R. § 122.26(c)(i)(E)(6). EPA has determined that precipitation greater than 0.1 inches in a 24-hour period constitutes a measurable precipitation event for the purposes of evaluating stormwater runoff associated with industrial activity.

<sup>16</sup> These discharges constitute "point sources" as defined by 33 U.S.C. § 1362(14) and 40 C.F.R. § 122.2. CLF specifically puts Cold Brook Gravel on notice that the unpermitted stormwater discharges associated with industrial activity include discharges from the Facility areas specified in 40 C.F.R. § 122.26(b)(14). See also 40 C.F.R. § 122.2, which states that the definition of "discharge of a pollutant" "includes additions of pollutants into waters of the United States from: surface runoff which is collected or channelled by man[.]"

<sup>17</sup> MSGP part 1.1 and 1.2.

discharges and for stormwater discharges from any co-located industrial activities.<sup>18</sup> Cold Brook Gravel's failure to obtain coverage and comply with the permit is in violation of the MSGP and 33 U.S.C. § 1342(p) of the Clean Water Act.<sup>19</sup>

### **1) Cold Brook Gravel Must Develop and Implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).**

As a prerequisite to applying for coverage under the MSGP, Cold Brook Gravel must develop and implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan ("SWPPP").<sup>20</sup> The SWPPP must include, but is not limited to, the following: information related to a company stormwater pollution prevention team, a site description, a summary of pollutant sources, a description of control measures, and schedules and procedures pertaining to control measures and monitoring.<sup>21</sup> Cold Brook Gravel has failed to develop and implement a SWPPP in accordance with the MSGP requirements in violation of the MSGP and the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1342(p).

### **2) Cold Brook Gravel Must Submit to EPA a Complete Notice of Intent to be Covered under the MSGP.**

To be eligible to discharge under the MSGP, Cold Brook Gravel must submit a complete Notice of Intent ("NOI") to the EPA.<sup>22</sup> To complete the NOI, Cold Brook Gravel is required to determine whether the body of water the stormwater is discharged to is an "impaired" water body, and whether the Facility discharges any specific pollutants listed on the NOI to that water body.<sup>23</sup> Cold Brook, Tannery Brook, and the Merrimack River are classified as "impaired" waters.<sup>24</sup> Additionally, as part of preparing the NOI, the covered Facility must make certain verifications such as verifying that no harm is done to a species in violation of the Endangered Species Act.<sup>25</sup> Cold Brook Gravel has failed to prepare and file an NOI meeting all applicable requirements in violation of the MSGP and the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1342(p).

### **3) Cold Brook Gravel Must Implement Control Measures and Meet Water-Quality Effluent Limitations.**

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<sup>18</sup> See MSGP part 1.1; MSGP part 8.J.

<sup>19</sup> A thorough search of EPA's databases indicates that Cold Brook Gravel has not filed an NOI for the Facility.

<sup>20</sup> See MSGP part 5.

<sup>21</sup> See MSGP part 5.2.

<sup>22</sup> See MSGP part 1.2.

<sup>23</sup> See MSGP part 2.2.2.

<sup>24</sup> See *supra* notes 4–6.

<sup>25</sup> See MSGP part 1.1.4.5 and 2.3.



To be eligible to discharge under the MSGP, Cold Brook Gravel must select, design, install, and implement control measures (including best management practices) to prevent polluted stormwater discharges from reaching nearby waterbodies. Cold Brook Gravel must address the selection and design considerations in the permit, meet the non-numeric effluent limitations in the permit, and meet limits contained in applicable permit effluent limitations guidelines.<sup>26</sup> These control practices must be in accordance with good engineering practices and manufacturer's specifications.<sup>27</sup> If the control measures are not achieving their intended effect of minimizing pollutant discharges, the permittee must modify these control measures as expeditiously as practicable.<sup>28</sup> Cold Brook Gravel has failed to cover the materials and operations that may result in polluted stormwater runoff. Cold Brook Gravel has not implemented the required control measures in violation of the MSGP and the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1342(p).

#### **4) Cold Brook Gravel Must Conduct Routine Facility Inspections.**

To be eligible to discharge under the MSGP, Cold Brook Gravel must conduct routine inspections of all areas of the Facility where industrial materials or activities are exposed to precipitation, and must ensure that all stormwater control measures comply with the effluent limits contained in the MSGP.<sup>29</sup> Routine inspections must be conducted at least quarterly but in many instances monthly inspections are most appropriate.<sup>30</sup> These inspections must occur when the Facility is in operation.<sup>31</sup> The schedule of these inspections must be included in the Facility's SWPPP and be performed by qualified personnel.<sup>32</sup> Cold Brook Gravel has failed to conduct the required routine inspections in accordance with the MSGP requirements in violation of the MSGP and the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1342(p).

#### **5) Cold Brook Gravel Must Comply with the Required Monitoring and Sampling Procedures.**

To be eligible to discharge under the MSGP, Cold Brook Gravel must collect and analyze stormwater samples and document monitoring activities consistent with the procedures in the MSGP.<sup>33</sup> The MSGP requires five types of analytical monitoring (one or more of which may apply) including quarterly benchmark monitoring, annual effluent limitations guidelines monitoring, State or Tribal-specific monitoring, impaired waters monitoring, and other

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<sup>26</sup> See MSGP part 2.1.

<sup>27</sup> *Id.*

<sup>28</sup> *Id.*

<sup>29</sup> See MSGP part 3.1.

<sup>30</sup> *Id.*

<sup>31</sup> *Id.*

<sup>32</sup> *Id.*

<sup>33</sup> See MSGP part 6.

monitoring as required by the EPA.<sup>34</sup> An operator must monitor each outfall identified in the SWPPP covered by a numeric effluent limit.<sup>35</sup> Required monitoring must be performed after stormwater events that result in an actual discharge on a required schedule.<sup>36</sup> All monitoring data collected under the Permit must be reported to EPA. Furthermore, because the Cold Brook, Tannery Brook, and the Merrimack River are classified as an “impaired” waters under 33 U.S.C. § 1313(d), Cold Brook Gravel must monitor for all pollutants for which Cold Brook, Tannery Brook, and the Merrimack River are impaired.<sup>37</sup> Cold Brook Gravel has failed to conduct the required monitoring under the MSGP and has failed to submit the required monitoring reports to EPA in violation of the MSGP and the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1342(p).

#### **6) Cold Brook Gravel Must Carry out the Required Reporting and Recordkeeping.**

Cold Brook Gravel must maintain and submit any and all required monitoring data.<sup>38</sup> Such monitoring data includes the following: an annual report to EPA which includes the Facility’s findings from the annual comprehensive site inspection and any documentation of correction actions;<sup>39</sup> an Exceedance Report to the EPA if any of the follow-up monitoring shows any exceedances of a numeric effluent limit;<sup>40</sup> and any other required reports under the MSGP.<sup>41</sup> Cold Brook Gravel has failed to maintain the required records and failed to submit all required monitoring data under the MSGP in violation of the MSGP and the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1342(p).

#### **7) Cold Brook Gravel Must Comply with the Requirements of MSGP Subpart J**

Cold Brook Gravel must also comply with the sector-specific requirements contained in Subpart J of the MSGP.<sup>42</sup> Subpart J requires crushed and broken stone facilities to implement additional technology-based effluent limits,<sup>43</sup> meet additional SWPPP and inspection requirements,<sup>44</sup> and monitor stormwater discharges for compliance with the benchmark limitations applicable specifically to crushed and broken stone facilities.<sup>45</sup> Cold Brook Gravel must also minimize contact of stormwater runoff with stockpiled materials, processed materials and non-recyclable wastes through various control measures such as permanent or semi-permanent covers or roofs,

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<sup>34</sup> See MSGP part 6.2.

<sup>35</sup> See MSGP part 6.1.1.

<sup>36</sup> See MSGP part 6.1.3.

<sup>37</sup> See MSGP part 6.2.4

<sup>38</sup> See MSGP part 7.1

<sup>39</sup> See MSGP part 7.5.

<sup>40</sup> See MSGP part 7.6.

<sup>41</sup> See MSGP part 7.7.

<sup>42</sup> See MSGP, Appendix D, Table D-1, Sector J.

<sup>43</sup> See MSGP parts 8.J.4; 8.J.5.

<sup>44</sup> See MSGP part 8.J.6 and 8.J.7.

<sup>45</sup> See MSGP 8.J.8.



interceptor or diversion controls (e.g., dikes, swales, curbs, or berms); pipe slope drains; subsurface drains; conveyance systems (e.g., channels or gutters, open-top box culverts, and waterbars; rolling dips and road sloping; roadway surface water deflector and culverts); or their equivalents.<sup>46</sup> Cold Brook Gravel has failed to comply with the requirements of Subpart J of the MSGP in violation of the MSGP and the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1342(p).

### **DATES OF VIOLATION**

Each day on which Cold Brook Gravel operates its Facility without permit coverage or discharges stormwater without a permit from the Facility is a separate and distinct violation of Section 301(a) and 402(p)(2)(B) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1311(a) and 1342(p)(2)(B).

Cold Brook Gravel has discharged stormwater without a permit in violation of Section 301(a) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a), on every day since at least 2010 on which there has been a measurable precipitation event.

Each day on which Cold Brook Gravel operates its Facility without permit coverage or discharges process water without a permit from the Facility is a separate and distinct violation of Section 301(a) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1311(a).

Every day, since at least 2010, on which Cold Brook Gravel has failed and continues to fail to apply for, obtain coverage, and comply with the requirements of the MSGP is a violation of Section 402(p)(3)(A) and (p)(4)(A) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1342(p)(3)(A) and (p)(4)(A).

These violations are ongoing and continuous, and barring a change in the stormwater management controls at the Facility and full compliance with the permitting requirements of the Clean Water Act, these violations will continue indefinitely.

### **RELIEF REQUESTED**

Cold Brook Gravel is liable for the above-described violations occurring prior to the date of this letter, and for every day that these violations continue. Pursuant to Section 309(d) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(d), and the Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties for Inflation, 40 C.F.R. § 19.4, each separate violation of the Act subjects Cold Brook Gravel to a penalty up to \$37,500 per day for each violation that occurred after January 12, 2009.<sup>47</sup> CLF will seek the full penalties allowed by law.

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<sup>46</sup> See MSGP part 8.J.5.2.

<sup>47</sup> 40 C.F.R. § 19.2

In addition to civil penalties, CLF will seek declaratory relief and injunctive relief to prevent further violations of the Clean Water Act pursuant to Sections 505(a) and (d), 33 U.S.C. § 1365(a) and (d), and such other relief as permitted by law. CLF will seek an order from the Court requiring Cold Brook Gravel to correct all identified violations through direct implementation of control measures and demonstration of full regulatory compliance.

Lastly, pursuant to Section 505(d) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1365(d), CLF will seek recovery of costs and fees associated with this matter.

### **CONCLUSION**

During the 60-day notice period, CLF is willing to discuss effective remedies for the violations noted in this letter that may avoid the necessity of further litigation. If you wish to pursue such discussions, please have your attorney contact Zachary Griefen within the next 20 days so that negotiations may be completed before the end of the 60-day notice period. We do not intend to delay the filing of a complaint in federal court if discussions are continuing at the conclusion of the 60 days.

Sincerely,



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